

## City Council

2024-2025

City of Newton



To: City Council  
From: President Marc C. Laredo and Vice President David Kalis  
Cc: City Clerk Carol Moore  
Re: Administrative Matters  
Date: January 17, 2024

We want to provide you with information about (a) two administrative initiatives and (b) opportunities for additional roles as representatives of the City Council as well as share some other items:

1. Tours of City and School Buildings. We are working with the Mayor and the School Committee to schedule tours of a number of municipal and school buildings that will be led by department heads or principals. We have tentatively reserved two Friday mornings – February 2 and 16 - for the municipal building tours, with tours of outdoor recreational facilities to take place in June. Please add the February dates to your calendars. We hope to schedule the school building tours for March or April. These will be great opportunities for us to observe the condition and functions of these buildings. We hope that you will be able to attend as many as possible. We are attaching a Municipal Buildings Portfolio that Commissioner Morse has prepared that should provide you with important information about all of our municipal buildings.

2. Budget Preview. The Mayor has suggested that we have an evening meeting (most likely on February 15) of the full City Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole, at which she and her team can a brief overview of the City of Newton's finances and allow us to provide our input before the Administration completes its detailed budget planning. Again, please add this date to your calendars. This meeting would be public and would replace the meetings that the Administration has held with smaller groups in the past. We look forward to trying this new approach.

3. City Council Appointees to Boards, Commissions, Committees and Working Groups. There are many positions on boards, commissions, committees, and working groups that the City Council has a role in filling. Some are Mayoral appointments subject to our confirmation, others are nominated by the City Council President subject to our confirmation, and still others are appointed directly by the President.

First, please encourage our constituents to volunteer be considered for positions that are open to all Newton residents. Hattie Kerwin Derrick ([hkerwinderrick@newtonma.gov](mailto:hkerwinderrick@newtonma.gov)) in the Mayor's office is the contact person and will have a list of open positions. This is a wonderful opportunity for residents who are looking to get more involved in city affairs and a great way for us to take advantage of the tremendous talent in our city.

Second, we need to fill the following positions with members of the City Council. Please let us know within the next week if you are interested in one or more of the following roles:

- Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (Councilor Markiewicz served as our representative)
- Financial Audit Advisory Committee (three Councilor Vacancies)
- Northland Liaison Committee (two Councilors needed – one from Ward 5 and the other from Ward 8)
- School Transportation Steering Group (Councilor Downs is one of our two representatives; we need a second Councilor to replace Councilor Bowman)
- Riverside Liaison Committee (Councilor Markiewicz filled this position)
- Chamber of Commerce's N-Squared Innovation District group (two Councilors needed - one from Ward 5 and the other from Ward 8)
- Double Poles Working Group (Councilor Laredo is on this group and would welcome the opportunity to pass this role on to someone else!)
- Newton Coalition for Community Wellness (Councilor Ryan served as a member.)

This is not a complete list and we will supplement it in the near future. Let us know if there are other groups that are not listed above for which Councilors need to be appointed.

Some other items:

- Our joint School Committee/City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24 from 7-9 pm in the City Council Chamber.
- Please respond to City Clerk Moore's poll on the question of whether to have an earlier start time for our full City Council meetings.
- Thank you for a productive discussion with our law department on Tuesday evening at our chairs meeting. We will schedule a follow-up discussion for March or April.
- Our next chairs meeting will be held on Monday, February 5 at 6:30 pm in Room 204. We will be discussing the recently circulated Best Practices guides, possible changes to the City Council meeting time, and how Committee reports are written. *All Councilors are encouraged to attend this and all other chairs meetings!*
- Please try to attend full City Council meetings in person. We think that it is important that we are all together in the same room as we discuss and debate important city issues. Whether committee meetings are fully remote or hybrid will be up to each Committee's leadership, keeping in mind that it often is easier for staff to participate remotely.
- Please sign up to be a server at the WinterFEST Soup Social organized by Newton Community Pride on Saturday, January 27 at 5:00 pm (serving starts at 5:30 pm) at the Hyde Playground Bandstand at 90 Lincoln Street. Email former Councilor John Rice ([jrice@tsnn.com](mailto:jrice@tsnn.com)) if you can be a server.

- If you have questions about material in the packet or need more information in advance of a committee meeting, please email the Committee leadership and the Committee clerk as soon as possible but in any event later than noon on Monday for Monday night Committee meetings and the close of business on Monday for Tuesday and Wednesday night meetings. The Committee clerk then can convey all requests to staff. This will allow staff to be better prepared for Committee meetings.

- We need election workers! City Clerk Moore has asked us to circulate the following information in our newsletters and other communications:

Are you passionate about democracy and want to make a difference in your community? The City of Newton is looking for Election Worker Inspectors to support the upcoming 2024 elections. As an Election Worker Inspector, you will be responsible for performing election duties under the direction of the Warden/Clerk, including but not limited to, checking voters' names at the Check-In Table and handing ballots to voters. You will also assist in the processing of Vote-By-Mail ballots while earning \$15 per hour.

To be eligible for this position, you must be registered to vote in Massachusetts, be available to work between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and be able to read and write English and speak clearly.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the Election Worker Application and mail to: City Hall, Office of the City Clerk, Attn: Elections, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459. You are also welcome to bring the application in during business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

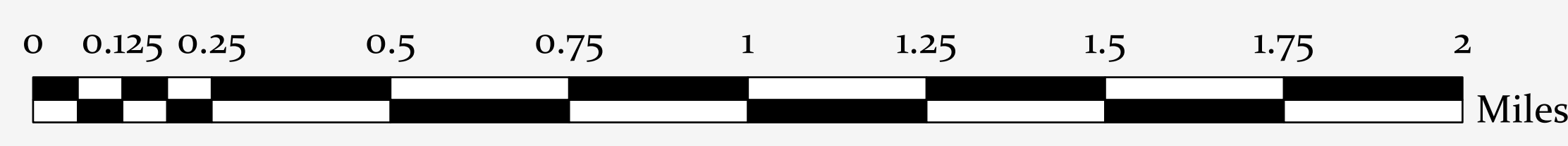
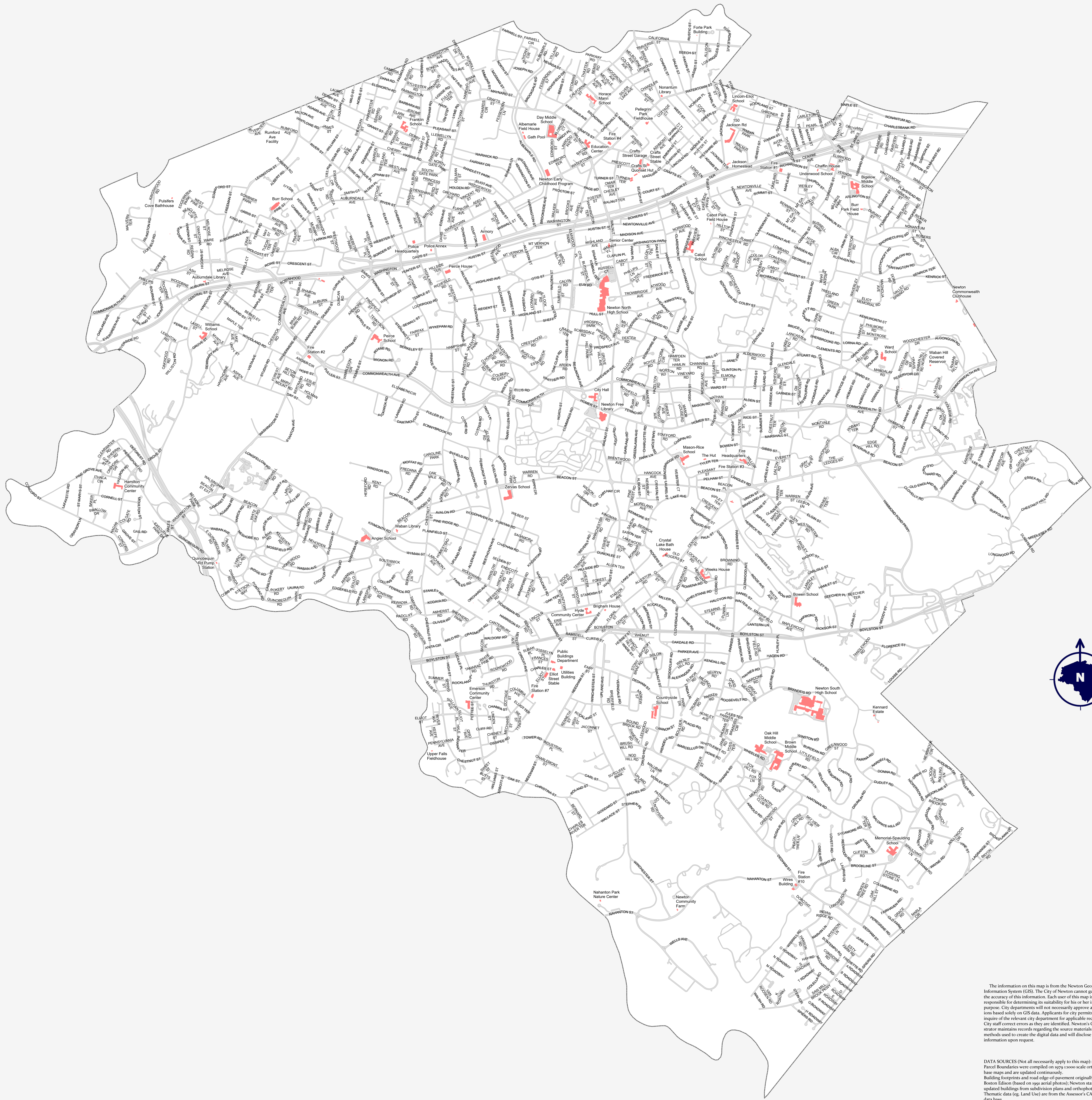
Join us in making a difference in our community and ensuring a smooth election for voters! <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/elections/election-workers>.

We are looking forward to a productive term - thanks for your attention to these items!



# City Buildings

## City of Newton, Massachusetts



Map Scale: 1 inch = 1000 Feet

**DRAFT**



The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on GIS data. Applicants for city permits must inquire of the relevant city department for applicable requirements. City staff correct errors as they are identified. Newton's GIS Administrator maintains records regarding the source materials and methods used to create the digital data and will disclose this information upon request.

DATA SOURCES (Not all necessarily apply to this map):  
Parcel Boundaries were compiled on 1/29/19 1:000 scale orthophoto base maps and are updated continuously.  
Building footprints and road edge-of-pavement originally from Boston Edison (based on 1991 aerial photos); Newton staff have updated buildings from subdivision plans and orthophotography.  
Thematic data (eg. Land Use) are from the Assessor's CAMA data base.



Map Date: January 17 2024  
CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
Mayor - Ruthanne Fuller